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number of the prominent litterateurs of the day should have stooped to billingsgate unexcelled in any previous school of abuse. This is, of course, largely because we have nowadays divorced politics and literature. The conditions in the early nineteenth century were wholly different; and it is partly because Dr. Miller has made clear this difference and has interpreted the political implications and prepossessions of the literature of Hunt's time that we congratulate her upon her work. But she has done much more than this. She has given us sketches of character and interpretations of conduct that seem to us excellent in their sanity. This will not appear to be an inconsiderable achievement to those who remember the ethical complex presented by the biographies of Byron and of Shelley.

In the main we may say that Dr. Miller's dissertation is of a kind of which we have many examples from the Columbia University Press. It seeks not so much to break new ground, to precipitate or enter controversy, as to survey minutely a territory whose limits and main character are known. It cannot be said that Dr. Miller has discovered anything in particular. On the other hand, she has put together more or less easily accessible data in such helpful form, she has exercised in most cases such excellent judgment, she has in general made her work so vitally interesting that her monograph will be of high value to students of nineteenth century literature.

We have noted the following misprints: Grude for grudge (p. 35), entomological for etymological (p. 81), Hazlett for Hazlitt (p. 129), ever for even (p. 138), erottic for erotic (p. 141). On page 119 the text and a continuation of a note from the preceding page are run together.

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THE HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE MOTHER TONGUE,
AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILOLOGICAL METHOD.

By Henry Cecil Wyld, Saines Professor of the English Language and Philology in the University of Liverpool. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. 1906. 8vo, pp. ix, 412. \$2.00 net.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD ENGLISH
SPEECH IN OUTLINE. By J. M. Hart. New York:
Henry Holt & Co. 1907. Small 8vo, pp. vii, 93. \$1.00 net.

In connection with the present day activity in the direction of spelling reform there should be an increased interest in the sound changes in the history of English, which, since they are responsible for the unphonetic character of English orthography,

are the ultimate causes of the present agitation. The two books whose titles are given above offer a fresh discussion of the history of English pronunciation.

Of the two books, that by Professor Wyld is the broader in its scope. In his introduction the author sets forth certain broad principles of linguistic research which form the distinctive tenets of the German school of *Junggrammatiker*, Leskien, Osthoff, Brugmann, Paul, and Sievers, to which he adheres. Chapters two to seven inclusive, which occupy 114 pages, deal with the science of speech sounds, the acquisition of language, the causes of sound change, the origin of dialects, the influence of languages on one another, and the influence of analogy. In his classification of speech sounds, Professor Wyld in general follows the method of Sweet, of whom he is a disciple. One notable exception is the substitution of *tense* and *slack* for *narrow* and *wide* in reference to the position of the tongue in the production of vowel sounds. A distinct gain in the direction of simplicity comes from the abandonment of the visible-speech signs which, to one not specially trained in the methods of Sweet, add so much to the difficulty of reading the "History of English Sounds."

The discussion of the causes of sound change is interesting, but somewhat disappointing. The results are negative, agnostic. The author concludes with M. Paul Passy, whom he quotes, that "En somme, ce que nous savons sur les causes premières des changements phonétiques est bien peu de chose." Sound changes are dependent upon the 'speech-basis' of a community, a phrase which the author uses somewhat too complacently; the factors that determine the precise nature of the 'speech-basis' are not to be accurately defined. The influence of climate on speech sound is dismissed with scant attention. On page 83 he says, "At any rate, so far, no specific sound change has ever been related, with certainty, to any definite conditions of climate, and it seems as if the most that we can say is, that climate may contribute to produce a speech basis which inherently tends to vary along certain lines, although the connection between the two has never been shown." The importance also of the explanation of sound change emphasized by Hirt and by Wechsler, namely, contact with foreign speakers, is minimized. This conservatism in view is carried decidedly too far when the author entirely neglects the important theory advanced by H. B. Tarbell (*Trans. Amer. Philol. Assoc.*, vol. XVII., 1886) in opposition to the theory of Paul, namely, that sound change advances from word to word. This theory was adopted by W. D. Whitney (*Indogerm. Forschungen*, IV 32 ff.) and has more recently been amplified by President B. I. Wheeler (*Trans. Amer. Philol. Assoc.*, vol.

XXXIII). A theory supported by such distinguished names certainly deserves to be considered.

Chapter five, which deals with differentiation in language, contains some timely remarks on the subject of *Esperanto*. Professor Wyld's statements on this subject are interesting but extreme. "If *Esperanto*," he says, "ever becomes a living language, it will change, and change in different ways among different groups of human beings. In this case it will no longer serve as a means of international communication." Assuming the premise that *Esperanto* becomes a living language, this opinion is undoubtedly sound, but the reviewer is not aware that it is proposed that *Esperanto* should become more than an artificial, secondary language to be acquired in addition to the living vernacular and to be used only for the special purpose of international communication. Such an artificial language would not be a living language and would be protected by conservative forces from the influences that tend toward differentiation.

Chapters 8-10 (64 pages) deal with the position of English among kindred languages. They contain a brief exposition of the methods of comparative philology, followed by an account of the Indo-Germanic mother-tongue and of the Germanic family. In these chapters the author has compressed much information, and he has succeeded in presenting clearly in a brief space the most significant facts.

It is only the last half of the book (pp. 204-381) that is devoted to the direct study of English. One chapter deals with the English of the O. E. period. The author gives a very clear presentation of the modifications undergone by the Germanic sounds in the differentiation of English from the parent Germanic, also an account of the more significant differences in the pronunciation of the different O. E. dialects. He gives also a discussion of the vocabulary, particularly interesting concerning the Latin element. The inflections are not so fully discussed.

The chapter on the M. E. period, dealing as it does with the time when the English language underwent complete transformation, is naturally full. Particularly to be commended is the discussion of the changes in the sounds of the native element in the language. The author treats this feature of the M. E. period *con amore*, and his treatment, though concise, is remarkable relatively for clearness and simplicity. He seems, however, to shun the effort of treating the Norman-French element in the language of this period, contenting himself with reference to the works of Skeat, Behrens and Bradley and giving merely a summary occupying little more than a page. The declensions, too, are treated with a brevity that betrays the fact that they are not the principal object of the author's interest.

Chapter 14 contains perhaps the most convenient existing account of the striking changes in English pronunciation during the Mod. Eng. period. The material is in the main that used by Ellis and by Sweet, but is well digested and in availability for the general reader the handling of the material is an improvement over that in the two earlier works. To Americans the chapter might have had greater interest if more account had been taken of the illustrative material supplied by the history of American pronunciation as treated notably in the writings of Grandgent and Hempl.

In his concluding chapter, on Present-day English, Professor Wyld is particularly happy. In dealing with the subjects of standard speech, right and wrong in speech, and the like, he dissipates many prevalent errors and upsets many false standards; at the same time he maintains a respect for so-called Standard English, and in his remarks the reader does not detect the anarchistic note so noticeable in the writings of some Americans in recent times.

On the whole, this book is a remarkably well rounded treatment of a broad subject. The expression throughout is admirably clear. Most important of all, the discussion of sounds, which forms the most important contribution of the work, is based on the study of living speech. As a text-book perhaps the ground covered is somewhat too broad; as a reference book the work will be found generally useful. The bibliography will prove convenient and the whole work in general a clear exposition of up-to-date knowledge.

Professor Hart's book, "Standard English Speech," deals exclusively with the subject of pronunciation. It is a very modest book containing, besides the preface and index, only seventy-nine pages. We believe that the author has intended it as a preliminary sketch to be amplified later into a volume of larger proportions.

The first chapter is introductory in character. The second chapter deals with vowels. An account is given, first of the lengthening and shortening of vowels, then of the changes in vowel quality which have come about particularly in the Mod. Eng. period, and which explain many of the distinctive and peculiar features of English pronunciation. The third and last chapter deals with consonant changes and is chiefly concerned with the perplexing changes due to palatalization.

Probably the most distinctive feature of this book is the revolt from the leadership of Orm. In his preface the author remarks, "Next, in nearly all phonological discussions there is too much Ormulum; the work of Brother Orm is viewed as if it were the norm of twelfth-century speech. This is to overlook

the patent fact that it represented only one small district." He might have added that the vocabulary of the *Ormulum* contains a large Norse element that has not survived in modern English, and it is possible that the pronunciation also may not have been perfectly representative of the current English.

Shaking, as he does, our faith in the authority of the *Ormulum* in matters of pronunciation, Professor Hart quite upsets and disarranges many of the explanations of M. E. sound change which have until now obtained universally. Take, for example, the lengthening of vowels before certain consonant combinations, *lǣ, mǣ, nǣ, ng, rǣ, ri, rn, rih*. A very definite law holds for the *Ormulum*, but did it hold for all Middle English? Professor Hart concludes in the negative. If this general change indicated in the *Ormulum* took place, then in order to explain the quantity in many modern English words, it is necessary to assume a return (*Rückkehr*) to the original quantity. It is exactly this German idea of the *Rückkehr* that Professor Hart objects to. He, therefore, sets up rules of change less general than those based on the *Ormulum*, but corresponding more closely to the quantities in modern English and involving, therefore, no assumption of *Rückkehr*. This protest against the authority of *Orm* may perhaps be exaggerated, but it certainly is important in order to arrive at a more exact knowledge of the changes in English pronunciation. It is not entirely safe to use the *Ormulum*, as Kluge is inclined to do, as the infallible guide in matters of M. E. pronunciation.

The statements in this book are in the main sound. There are, however, two or three points concerning which the reviewer is in doubt. On page 22 appears the statement concerning Middle English, "The distinction between *æ* and *a* in O. E. ceased to be maintained." This is certainly true of the M. E. writing. The written character *æ* did cease to be used, but have we certain proof that the distinction between the sounds ceased to exist? Does this not involve the assumption of *Rückkehr* in order to explain the pronunciation in America at present and that in eighteenth century England? Further, on page 35, reference is made to the "late diphthonging of *either, neither*." Does not this diphthonging belong to the M. E. period? Is it not true that the modern *ai* pronunciation in *either* is the outgrowth of the old diphthong, while the *i* pronunciation springs from a simple sound, developing in the order *æ > ē > i*, as, for example, in "read." (Cf. G. Hempl, *Amer. Jour. of Phil.* XXI, 441, 442.) On Page 37 we read, "O. E. *æ*, M. E. *a*, before *g*, produced (*ai*). . . . In Chaucer, however, and in modern standard English since Chaucer, the (*ai*) has been levelled to (*ei*)." Does this not involve the assumption of *Rückkehr* to which the author

objects? The natural development of O. E. $\alpha+i$ (from vocalization of g) would be, in one direction, ai , in another ei . The "levelling" of ai to ei would involve an intermediate stage ei . The change from ai to ei would be a *Rückkehr*.

In general availability this book loses somewhat on account of its condensation. The reader is frequently left in the dark concerning the processes by which the author has reached his conclusions or the authority upon which his statements are based. Our knowledge of many of the matters treated is too unsettled to admit of dogmatic statement. It is to be hoped that Professor Hart will carry out his plan of expanding this work, and supplying it with bibliographical references and with a discussion of processes by which conclusions are arrived at.

As the work stands, however, it offers the most concise statement of the principal facts in English sound change and affords either a brief statement for those who have not the time to go more deeply into the subject or an admirable summary for the student who has been studying the sources of knowledge of sound change.

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THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN LIFE: AS VIEWED BY THE GREAT THINKERS FROM PLATO TO THE PRESENT TIME. Rudolf Eucken. English translation by W. S. Hough and W. R. Boyce Gibson. New York; Scribner. 1909. Pp. xxv-582.

The character and purpose of this work is indicated in the author's preface to the English translation as follows: "The present book forms the essential complement of all my other works. It is designed to afford historical confirmation of the view that conceptions are determined by life, not life by conceptions. Under the guidance of this conviction the book traverses the whole spiritual development of the Western world, in the hope that the several phases of the development, and, above all, its great personalities, will be brought nearer to the personal experience of the reader than is customarily done. Particularly in an age of predominant specialization, when the pursuit of learning too often endangers the completeness of living, such an endeavor is fully justified."

What life means, when viewed as a whole, is a question not to be answered by the labor of the unaided intellect. Professor Eucken believes, with Fichte, that our philosophy is determined by what we are; and, furthermore, that to those who have eyes to see, the meaning of life is revealed most